

► Japanese PM questioned over understanding of 'gravity' of her remarks

## Takaichi's Taiwan claims keep drawing criticism from political figures, media

By Xu Keyue and Shen Sheng

The repercussions of Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi's recent wrongful remarks that implied the possibility of armed intervention in the Taiwan Straits are still resonating in Japan, drawing criticism from some senior Japanese political figures and media, according to multiple Japanese media reports.

Former Japanese prime minister Yukio Hatoyama responded again on social media platform X on Tuesday to Takaichi's wrongful remarks on the Taiwan question, stating that Japan should not interfere in China's internal affairs.

Hatoyama posted on Saturday on X expressing a similar view the day after Takaichi made the claims. He criticized her remarks for clearly stoking a crisis to justify military buildup. "Japan should respect the fact that Taiwan is part of China," he added.

During a hearing in the Diet, Japan's legislature, on Friday, Takaichi claimed that a Taiwan emergency involving the

use of military vessels and military force from the Chinese mainland could constitute a "survival-threatening situation" for Japan. According to legislation, Japan's Self-Defense Forces could exercise the right of collective self-defense if such a situation is recognized as "survival-threatening."

Jiji Press reported that Hiroshi Ogushi of the Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan had demanded Takaichi revoke the remarks on Monday. "If a 'survival-threatening situation' is recognized, it would lead to a defense mobilization. This is a judgment equivalent to entering a war, and past cabinets have been cautious in making such statements," Ogushi said.

In response, Takaichi appeared to step back from her previous remarks. While maintaining that her position "aligns with the government's longstanding view and I have no intention of retracting or rescinding it," she characterized the statement as "a response based on a worst-case scenario" and pledged to

"reflect on specific scenarios moving forward and exercise greater caution in future remarks," the Mainichi Shimbun reported on Monday.

Tokyo Shimbun published an editorial on Tuesday, questioning whether Takaichi understands the gravity of such a statement coming from a prime minister, condemning this as "extremely reckless and imprudent" remarks.

The Okinawa Times reported that Takaichi's claims on Taiwan have sparked controversy. Quoting a Japanese government source, the report added that "this should not have been stated from the position of prime minister."

Liu Jiangyong, vice dean of the Institute of Modern International Relations at Tsinghua University, said the Japanese politicians and media who expressed opposition against Takaichi's wrongful remarks "have stepped forward at this critical moment to voice a just stance." Liu noted that "In the eyes of the peace-loving people of Japan, Takaichi's claims are dangerous and unacceptable."

## Modi says perpetrators of car blast won't be spared; FM expresses sympathies to victims

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said that those responsible for the Delhi car blast won't be spared and will be brought to justice. Modi, who is on a two-day visit to Bhutan, said that he monitored the situation all night after the blast, reported the Times of India. A car explosion killed at least 13 people as of press time near a metro station at the landmark Red Fort monument in Delhi, India, on Monday, according to media reports.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian told Tuesday's press conference that China noted reports about the explosion in New Delhi, and learned there are no Chinese casualties so far.

"We are shocked by the incident. We mourn for the lives lost, extend sincere sympathies to the bereaved families and the injured, and wish the injured speedy recovery," Lin said.

The blast, which triggered a fire that damaged several vehicles parked nearby, was reportedly near one of the gates of the Red Fort metro station, the fire services said. The cause is being investigated, according to the Associated Press.

New Delhi's international airport, metro stations and government buildings were put on a high security alert after the explosion, the government said. The cause of the explosion is being investigated, said a report from Sky News.

Home Minister Amit Shah told local media that a Hyundai i20 car exploded near a traffic signal close to the Red Fort. He said CCTV footage from cameras in the area will form part of the investigation, the AP News reported.

"We are exploring all possibilities and will conduct a thorough investigation, taking all possibilities into account," Shah said, according to the CNN.

India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi offered his condolences to the relatives of those killed. "May the injured recover at the earliest," he said in a post on X. He also mentioned that he had reviewed the situation with Home Minister Amit Shah Ji and other officials. In his first public remarks since the explosion, Modi said the conspirators behind it "will not be spared".

Global Times

### ► BBC under fire



**Former BBC director general Tim Davie arrives at Broadcasting House on November 11, 2025 in London, UK. Davie and BBC CEO of News Deborah Turness resigned as US President Donald Trump has threatened a \$1 billion lawsuit against the British broadcaster, alleging a BBC Panorama episode made "false, defamatory, disparaging, misleading, and inflammatory statements about President Trump."**

Photo: VCG

## Trump meets al-Sharaa at White House; Washington eyes turning Syria into pro-West ally: expert

By Wang Qi

US President Donald Trump on Monday local time met with Syrian interim leader Ahmad al-Sharaa at the White House. Although reporters and cameras were barred from the meeting in the Oval Office, the talks are seen as a sign marking a major shift in US-Syria relations.

According to The Hill, al-Sharaa's meeting marked the first visit by a Syrian leader to

the White House. However, al-Sharaa did not walk the route typically reserved for visiting dignitaries, through the West Wing entrance along the North Drive. Instead, he was seen walking through the West Executive entrance.

Axios reported the White House kept al-Sharaa's visit low-profile and did not open the Oval Office to the press, unlike most leader visits. Al-Sharaa entered without a door-step welcome or joint photo.

After the meeting, a senior administration official told CBS News on Monday that Syria will be joining the US-led "Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS." The media reported that al-Sharaa was expected to possibly sign a formal agreement with President Trump during their in person meeting to cooperate on counterterrorism, a move which the news outlet described as a "180-degree turnaround" in how US government views Damascus.

The US will also allow Syria to resume operations at its Washington embassy, according to a senior US administration official who told the AP on condition of anonymity.

Due to the extremist roots of Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS), the Syrian interim government continues to grapple with international-legitimacy concerns. It seeks US help to move from an ambiguous "gray" status to full diplomatic normalcy, said Liu Zhongmin, a professor at the

Middle East Studies Institute of Shanghai International Studies University.

During the Bashar al-Assad era, Syria was a key ally of Russia and Iran. This makes US' primary consideration be transforming Syria into a pro-Western, or even pro-Israel, ally, further diminishing Russian and Iranian influence, Liu added.

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